

MI Child Support Formula - ADM 2003-22-10 Shared Economic Responsibility

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To: <MCSF@courts.mi.gov>
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Subject: ADM 2003-22-10 Shared Economic Responsibility

I have read the proposed changes with much anticipation and great interest and although not perfect, I believe they bring a great degree of fairness back to the divorce courts.

I am a father of two daughters, and currently through circumstances beyond my control, a non-custodial parent. My response to these changes requires a short primer. I was divorced in 2001 in Washtenaw County. Because my ex-spouse and I lived in the same town we agreed and were awarded Joint legal and joint physical custody. Although it wasn't exactly a 50-50 split in parenting time I had my children a good deal of time. She has since moved 80 miles away without notice to me and violated many of the provisions of the divorce decree, including denied parenting time.

To make a long story short, I have spent a year with Washtenaw County Friend of the Court to no avail. In short, I now see my children less and have to pay more in child support. I have unfairly been reduced to a weekend Dad. My children don't like the arrangement either. Friend of the Court is no friend to me in this case (please note that this matter is now before a Washtenaw County family court judge because Washtenaw County Friend of the Court failed in their duty to recognize father's rights).

While under the new changes it appears that if I had my children as much as I did previously, I might pay slightly more in support. However, since I no longer get to see them as much as I did, it appears under the new formula that I might not have to pay as much as I would have, which matches better with my current custodial situation that I am forced to endure. The new formula appears to be a fair approach to the allocation of child support when visitation is reduced.

In closing if I cannot see my children as much as I would like (and conversely their mother will not let them see me as much as they would like), then my child support should be reduced in a fair and enforceable way. This does not mean that I will not continue to pay for their well being. As noted in the proposed modifications there are many other costs in raising children borne by the non-custodial parent that are not taken into consideration by the court.

I would therefore encourage you to adopt these changes, particularly ADM 2003-22-10.

Thank you.

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